LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement, for the treatment of or for use in patients with Hepatitis C infection, ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising botanical raw materials, botanical drug substances or botanical ingredients from each of the following plant sources:

   (a) The fruit of Silybum marianum;
   (b) The root of Astragalus membranaceus var mongholicus or Hedysarum polybotrys;
   (c) The root of Salvia miltiorrhiza, Salvia bowleyana or Salvia przewalskii; and
   (d) The fruit of Schisandra chinensis or Schisandra sphenanthera.

2. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in claim 1 wherein each species is present in an amount, relative to the total weight of all of the botanical raw materials, botanical drug substances or botanical ingredients, as follows:

   (a) Silybum spp. from 22-48%;
   (b) Astragalus spp. or Hedysarum spp. from 20-63%;
   (c) Salvia spp. from 13-48%; and
   (d) Schisandra spp. from 2-19%.

3. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in claim 2 wherein each species is present in an amount as follows:

   (a) Silybum spp. from 30-40%;
   (b) Astragalus or Hedysarum spp. from 20-30%;
   (c) Salvia spp. from 20-30%; and
   (d) Schisandra spp. from 7.5-15%.

4. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in claim [[2 or]] 3 wherein each species is present in an amount as follows:

   (a) Silybum spp. about 35% ~~35.3% plus or minus 10%~~;
   (b) Astragalus or Hedysarum spp. about 26% ~~26.5% plus or minus 10%~~;
   (c) Salvia spp. about 26% ~~26.5% plus or minus 10%~~; and
   (d) Schisandra spp. about 11% ~~11.7% plus or minus 10%~~.

5. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 1, wherein the botanical drug or dietary supplement ~~any of the preceding claims which~~ consists essentially of botanical drug substances.

6. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 5 further comprising excipients.

7. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 5 wherein the botanical drug substances comprise ~~total~~ extracts derived from each of the botanical raw materials.

8. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 5 wherein the botanical drug substances comprise one or more defined extract fractions derived from each of the botanical raw materials.

9. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5 in which the botanical drug substances are standardised extracts.

10. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 9 wherein the botanical drug substance from the Silybum spp. is standardised against a marker of silybin.

11. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 9 wherein the botanical drug substance from the Silybum spp. comprises at least 30% by weight silybin and isosilybin when calculated [[by]] using HPLC ~~method~~.

12. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in any of claim 9 ~~claims 9 to 11~~ wherein the standardised extract of the Silybum spp. is a brownish yellow powder which is or has:

    (i) no less than 30% silybin by HPLC;
    (ii) no more than 0.5% soluble in pentane;
    (iii) a sulphated ash content of no more than 1% by weight;
    (iv) a heavy metal content of no more than 100ppm;
    (v) a residual organic solvent content of no more than 1% ethanol, no more than 0.01% ethyl acetate and no more than 0.01% hexane by weight;
    (vi) a bacterial content of no more than 1000 cfu/g; and
    (vii) a fungal content of no more than 100cfu/g.

13. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 9 wherein the botanical drug substance from the Astragalus spp. is standardised against a marker of Astragaloside IV.

14. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 13 wherein the botanical drug substance from the Astragalus spp. comprises at least 0.4% by weight ~~(weight)~~ Astragaloside IV [[as]] when calculated [[by]] using HPLC ~~method~~.

15. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 13 [[or 14]] wherein the botanical drug substance from the Astragalus spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 1 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 4.

16. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 13 to 15~~ claim 13 wherein the standardised extract of Astragalus spp. is a pale yellow powder which is or has:

(i) no less than 0.4% Astragaloside IV by weight;
(ii) a total ash content of no more than 5% by weight;
(iii) an acid insoluble ash content of no more than 2% by weight; and
(iv) a microbial total viable aerobic count of no more than of 1000 cfu/g.

17. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 9 wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Salvia* spp. is standardised against a marker of Tanshinone II A.

18. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 17 wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Salvia* spp. comprises at least 1.5% by ~~(weight)~~ weight of Tanshinone IIA as calculated [[by]] using HPLC ~~method~~.

19. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 17 ~~or 18~~ wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Salvia* spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 2 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 6.

20. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 17 ~~to 19~~ wherein the standardised extract of the *Salvia* spp. is a dark red powder which is or has:

(i) no less than 1.5% by weight Tanshinone IIA by HPLC;
(ii) a total ash content of no more than 5% by weight;
(iii) an acid insoluble ash content of no more than 2% by weight; and
(iv) a microbial total viable aerobic count of no more than of 1000 cfu/g.

21. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 9 wherein botanical drug substance from the *Schisandra* spp. is standardised against a marker of Schizandrol A.

22. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 21 wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Schisandra* spp. comprises at least 2.0% by weight Schizandrol A ~~by~~ using HPLC ~~method~~.

23. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug substance, as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Schisandra* spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 3 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 8.

24. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug substance as claimed in ~~either~~ claim 22 ~~or 23~~ wherein the standardised extract of *Schisandra* spp. *i*s a brownish red powder which is or has:

(i) no less than 2.0 % by weight Schizandrol A;
(ii) a total ash content of no more than 5% by weight;
(iii) an acid insoluble ash content of no more than 2% by weight; and
(iv) a microbial total viable aerobic count of no more than of 1000 cfu/g.

25. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 24~~ claim 9 wherein the ~~each~~ standardised extract is a dried ethanolic extract.

26. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 25~~ claim 9 wherein the *Silybum* spp. is extracted according to a process substantially as illustrated in Fig 10.

27. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 25~~ claim 9 wherein the *Astragalus* spp. is extracted according to a process substantially as illustrated in Fig 11.

28. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 25~~ claim 9 wherein the:

Salvia spp. is extracted according to a process substantially as illustrated in Fig 12.

29. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 25~~ claim 9 wherein the *Schisandra* spp. is extracted according to the process substantially as illustrated in Fig 13.

30. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 – 29~~ claim 9 which is provided in a unit dosage form.

31. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 30 which is a suspension powder mixture.

32. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claims 31 further comprising as excipients:

(a) one or more gellants or thickeners comprising at least one xanthum gum having a particle size distribution such that 100% by weight of the particles pass a 60 mesh sieve, 95% by weight of the particles pass a 80 mesh sieve and 70% by weight of the particles pass a 200 mesh sieve,
(b) one or more fillers; and
(c) one or more wetting agents and or surfactants.

33. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claims 32 wherein the xanthan gum has a molecular weight of from 3.5 to 4.0 $x10^6$.

34. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~claims~~ claim 32 wherein the wetting agent is a polyethylene glycol or macrogol.

35. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 30 to 34~~ claim 30 further comprising one or more of a disintegrating agent, a lubricant, a sweetening agent, a flavouring agent and a viscosifying agent.

36. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 30 to 35~~ claim 30 which is packaged in a sachet.

37. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 30 to 36~~ claim 30 which is packaged with a dispensing container.

38. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 37 wherein the dispensing container has a sealable lid.

39. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug as claimed in ~~any of claims 9 to 38~~ claim 9 comprising in a unit dose:

    (i) 0.200g to 0.250g of a botanical drug substance from a *Silybum* spp. ~~(equivalent to 12g to 15g of botanical raw material)~~;
    (ii) 0.585g to 1.95g of a botanical drug substance from a *Astragalus* spp. ~~(equivalent to 9g to 30g of botanical raw material)~~ ;
    (iii) 0.225g to 0.375g of a botanical drug substance from a *Salvia spp.;* ~~spp. (equivalent to 9g to 15g f botanical raw material)~~ and
    (iv) 0.150g to 0.600g of a botanical drug substance from a *Schisandra* spp. ~~(equivalent to 1.5g to 6g of botanical raw material).~~

40. **(Currently amended)** A method of treating a patient to reduce or alleviate the symptoms of Hepatitis, particularly Hepatitis C, or to support healthy liver function comprising administering to a patient an efficacious dosage of a botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-4 or a botanical drug as claimed in any of claims 5 to 39~~ claim 1.

41. **(Currently amended)** The use of a botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in ~~any of claims 1-4 or a botanical drug as claimed in any of claims 5 to 39~~ claim 1 in combination with another drug in an amount efficacious to reduce or alleviate the symptoms of Hepatitis, particularly Hepatitis C, or to support healthy liver function.

42. **(Previously presented)** The use as claimed in claim 41 wherein the another drug is interferon.

43. **(Currently amended)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement, for the treatment of or for use in patients with Hepatitis C infection, ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of botanical raw materials, botanical drug substances or botanical ingredients from each of:

(a) The fruit of Silybum marianum;
(b) The root of Astragalus membranaceus var mongholicus or Hedysarum polybotrys;
(c) The root of Salvia miltiorrhiza, Salvia bowleyana or Salvia przewalskii; and
(d) The fruit of Schisandra chinensis or Schisandra ~~sphenanthera~~ sphenanthera.

~~in an amount by weight relative to the total weight of the botanical raw materials, botanical drug substances or botanical ingredients as follows:~~

~~*(a) Silybum* spp. no less than 22%~~
~~*(b) Astragalus or Hedysarum spp.no less than 20% ;*~~
~~*(c) Salvia spp. no less than 13%; and*~~
~~*(d) Schisandra spp. no less than 2%.*~~

44. **(Previously presented)** A botanical drug or dietary supplement as claimed in claim 43 in which each species is present in an amount by weight relative to the total weight of the botanical raw materials, botanical drug substances or botanical ingredients as follows:

(a) Silybum spp. no less than 22%
(b) Astragalus or *Hedysarum* spp.no less than 20% ;
(c) Salvia spp. no less than 13%; and
(d) Schisandra spp. no less than 2%

45. **(New)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 14 wherein the botanical drug substance from the Astragalus spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 1 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 4.

46. **(New)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 15 wherein the standardised extract of Astragalus spp. is a pale yellow powder which is or has:

(i) no less than 0.4% Astragaloside IV by weight;
(ii) a total ash content of no more than 5% by weight;

(iii) an acid insoluble ash content of no more than 2% by weight; and
(iv) a microbial total viable aerobic count of no more than of 1000 cfu/g.

47. **(New)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 18 wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Salvia* spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 2 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 6.

48. **(New)** A botanical drug as claimed in claim 19 wherein the standardised extract of the *Salvia* spp. is a dark red powder which is or has:

(i) no less than 1.5% by weight Tanshinone IIA by HPLC;
(ii) a total ash content of no more than 5% by weight;
(iii) an acid insoluble ash content of no more than 2% by weight; and
(iv) a microbial total viable aerobic count of no more than of 1000 cfu/g.

49. **(New)** A botanical drug substance, as claimed in claim 22 wherein the botanical drug substance from the *Schisandra* spp. has a TLC chromatographic fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 3 or a HPLC fingerprint substantially as illustrated in Fig 8.